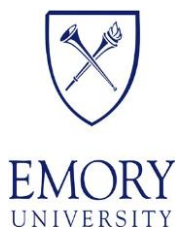


# Emory/Georgia Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center TRAC Pilot Grant Request for Applications



The NIH-funded Emory/Georgia Tuberculosis Research Advancement Center (TRAC; **P30AI168386**) is excited to announce the **3rd round** of pilot grant Request for Applications for tuberculosis (TB)-related research from Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs) and investigators new to TB. The purpose of these pilot grants is to stimulate new research ideas, catalyze new research collaborations, provide resources for investigators to generate preliminary data to support external grant submissions, and attract established non-TB investigators to pursue multidisciplinary TB research.

## **There will be three (3) categories of grants considered:**

**TRAC-03** awards to help US-based ESIs/Post-Docs/Fellows and investigators new to TB generate essential preliminary data for NIH applications.

**TRAC-C** awards are co-funded grants that stimulate collaborative research in specific areas of strength across our consortium including TB/HIV, TB/diabetes mellitus, TB sex-based research, and TB/Influenza.

**TRAC-G** awards designed to develop and foster equitable global health research collaborations. A list of eligible international institutions is included at the end of this document. Collaborators must not have a history of working together as Multiple Principal Investigators (MPIs) on prior TB-related grants.

Clinical trials (as defined by the NIH) and non-tuberculosis mycobacteria studies are not permitted under this call for pilot grants. Resubmissions are allowed and should include a 1-page "Introduction" page summarizing the changes made to the proposal to address reviewer feedback.

## **Allowed Budget:**

Amount: **\$50,000 in direct costs**, per one-year, non-renewable grant. Proposed studies should be completed within a 12-month project period. No-cost extensions are not guaranteed due to TRAC's year-to-year funding from NIH. Funds can be used for research related direct costs and to support staff salary. Additionally, funds can be used to support Principal Investigator salary/fringe benefits support not to exceed \$10,000 in total.

## **Important Deadlines/Dates:**

- Letter of Intent (LOI) due - 5pm EST **September 19, 2024** (*required - submit [here](#)*)
- Full application due - 5pm EST **November 14, 2024** (*submit through the online portal [here](#)*).

- Anticipated Notice of Decision - **Early January 2025**
- Projected start date – **March 3, 2025** (*Funds will not be released until all necessary IRB/IACUC approvals are obtained.*)

### **Emory/Georgia TRAC Core Services**

Applicants are encouraged to request Clinical Research or Bioinformatics consults from the Emory/Georgia TRAC Cores, including the Basic and Translational Science Core, Developmental Core, Clinical and Population Sciences Core, and the Bioinformatics and Integrated Systems Biology Core. For an overview of available consults and to request a consult please see [here](#).

### **Eligibility criteria:**

Appointment at an Emory/Georgia TRAC institution (Emory, UGA, Morehouse University, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University) or an Emory/Georgia/TRAC international partner institution [see list at bottom of this announcement]; this includes investigators who are either:

1. ESI without R01/R01-equivalent funding
2. Post-Doctoral trainees/Fellows
3. Experienced investigators who *either*
  - a. Apply in conjunction with an international collaborator at one of the **Emory/Georgia TRAC partners listed at the end of this document** (TRAC-G applications)
  - b. Have not received independent funding in TB before (new investigator to TB)

Both international and domestic ESIs/Post Docs/Fellows applying for TRAC-G funding must each submit a letter of support from a senior mentor at their home institution.

### **Letter of Intent (required):** (portal found [here](#))

Interested applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) via the [online form](#) no later than 5:00PM (no exceptions) on **September 19, 2024**, that includes:

- Project title
- Project summary (less than 250 words) of the proposed project
- Project area of focus (5 keywords)
- Name, email, demographics, and academic rank of each principal investigator(s)

The online letter of intent (LOI) must be completed in one sitting, so it is recommended that applicants gather the information/documents before beginning the LOI submission.

### **Application:**

Complete applications must be submitted online no later than **5pm ET, Friday November 14, 2024**. The link to the application portal can be found [here](#). Applications should use 11pt Arial font and 0.5-inch (1.27 cm) margins (top, bottom and sides) on 8.5 x 11-inch paper (21.59 x 27.94 cm).

### **The application must include the following components:**

- **NIH Biosketch** using the current (non-fellowship) [format](#)
  - NIH biosketches from the PI(s) and Key Personnel should be included in the application.
- **Abstract** - 30 lines

- **Research strategy** - *Not to exceed 6 pages including specific aims page*
  - Specific aims (1 page maximum)
  - Significance (suggested 1 page)
  - Innovation (suggested 1/2 page)
  - Approach (suggests 2 ½ - 3 ½ pages) including a “next steps” section at the end.
- **Bibliography** and references cited (maximum 40 references) do **not** count against page limit.
- **Letters of support** from any collaborators on the project (maximum 1 page per LOS). Mentor letters are required for all ESI/Post-Docs/Fellows.
- **Budget** - line item and budget justification for a 12-month period are required
  - Applicants should use the NIH template for a line-item budget (a word version can be found on the TRAC website [tb.emory.edu](http://tb.emory.edu) under “find funding”)
  - Budget justification should clearly and fully justify all costs. If any budget overlaps with an existing study, please describe and clarify the relationship between the two projects.
  - If funds will be used in two or more countries, submit separate budgets and justification for each country
  - For international projects only, please add 8% for indirect costs to the bottom of the budget template for the international site budget and in your budget justification.

### **Resubmissions**

Resubmissions are allowed and should include a 1-page introduction summarizing the changes made to the proposal to address reviewer feedback.

### **Post-Award Requirements:**

- IRB or IACUC approval must be obtained before any funds are released.
- Awardees will be required to submit a 6, 12, and 24-month progress report using a template provided by the TRAC.
- Awardees will be required to cite the Emory/Georgia TRAC grant number (**P30AI168386**) in all publications and presentations that use data collected under the support of the grant.
- Awardees will be expected to share the data they collect with the TRAC Dataverse in accordance with the TRAC Clinical and Population Sciences Core data sharing agreement.
- Awardees will be required to submit their updated NIH biosketch and fill out an annual career survey to track their advancement in the field, as well as serve on the TRAC Developmental Core mock study section committee during their time of award.

### **TRAC Award Review Criteria:**

All completed applications that meet eligibility requirements will be evaluated for scientific and technical merits by the TRAC review committee in accordance with the following NIH review criteria: Significance, Approach, Innovation, Investigator(s), and Environment. Applications will be scored using an NIH style scoring system.

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### **Selection of Awardees:**

The Emory/Georgia TRAC will make funding decisions based on several factors including scientific review score, potential of the proposal to advance the career of the principal investigator(s), potential of the research to lead to a publication and an NIH grant application, and potential of the research to make an impact on the TB field.

### **Feedback to Applicants:**

All applicants, whether funded or not funded, will receive written reviews and final scores for their proposal.

### **Further Application Instructions:**

Proposals, in addition to the Approach, Significance, Innovation, and Approach sections, applications should ensure the following:

- There are at least two specific aims. The application should propose new scientific aims. If proposing a similar idea to previously funded work, describe how the new proposed research is unique.
- The feasibility of the research is described, specifically how the applicant will ensure the work gets completed in 12 months. A timeline should be included.
- A discussion of the next steps must be included. Specifically, the applicant must describe how the project will lead to preliminary data to support an NIH application and how the project is important for career development.
- For TRAC-G proposals, include discussion about how the proposal will strengthen an international partnership and lead to a subsequent grant proposal.

### **Emory/Georgia TRAC International Partners:**

Investigators from any of these institutions are eligible to be a Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI) on a TRAC-G application:

- Aga Khan University East Africa, Kenya
- Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa University, and Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Ethiopia
- Centre of the AIDS Research Programme in South Africa (CAPRISA), South Africa
- Coptic Hospital, Kenya
- De La Salle Health Science Institute, Philippines
- Makerere University, Uganda
- National Center for Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (NCTLD) and National Center for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), Georgia
- National Health and Laboratory Services (NHLS), South Africa
- University of Cape Town (UTC), South Africa
- University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa